



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/642,200	08/18/2000	Lisa C. Hammitt	BLAPP001	6794

7590 01/04/2005

Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner LLP  
1300 I Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005-3315

EXAMINER
----------

JEANTY, ROMAIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3623

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/642,200

Applicant(s)

HAMMITT ET AL.

Examiner

Romain Jeanty

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-5 and 13-35 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-12, 36-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau. (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This communication is in response to the amendments filed September 2, 2004.

***Response to Amendment***

2. Applicant has not amended any claims and has elected to restrict out claims 1 – 5 and 13 – 35 and has not added any new claims. Claims 6 – 12 and 36 – 39 are pending and are prosecuted in the response set out below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 6 - 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Elliott (US 6,754,181).

5. As per claim 6, Elliott discloses a method for executing an interaction flow model, comprising:

receiving an event ("the SNMS Alarming Server also receives events, in particular DS-3 transmission alarms, from other network management systems", column 109, lines 16 - 19);

categorizing the received event ("SNMS will correlate these events with events received from SS7 network elements", column 109, lines 19 - 20);

identifying a situation that matches the categorized received event (“the SNMS Alarming server also receives maintenance schedule information from a network maintenance schedule system. SNMS uses this information to account for planned network outages due to maintenance”, column 109, lines 20 - 24), wherein a planned outage is a planned event;

executing one or more tasks for the situation, the execution of the one or more tasks including one of an interpretation of a model and execution of a method of an object (“SNMS uses this information to proactively warn maintenance personnel of a network outage”, column 109, line 25 - 26), where performing a warning is an execution of a task.

As per claim 7, Elliott discloses a method for receiving the event is by way of one of a distributed information service and a user and application interface (“the SNMS Alarming Server has an interface with a Trouble Management System. This allows SNMS users at the client workstation to submit trouble tickets”, column 109, lines 30 - 31) and (“the SNMS Graphics Server supports all client workstations at a single site”, column 109, lines 35 - 36).

As per claim 8, Elliott discloses a method for executing an interaction flow model as recited in claim 6, wherein the categorizing is configured to generate a set of categories for previously handled events (“SNMS will correlate these events with events received from SS7 network elements”, column 109, lines 19 - 20), wherein categories are a type of correlation and are thus inherent in the correlation of events with previous events, otherwise without categories it would not be possible to categorize or correlate.

As per claim 9, Elliott discloses a method for executing an interaction flow model as recited in claim 6, wherein the executing one or more tasks for the situation includes: invoking one of an optimization engine wherein the interpretation of the model includes a decide action, (“The Resource Management Model 2150 should optimize the allocation of resources and, if possible, honoring a selected policy”, column 26, lines 33 - 35).

As per claim 10, Elliott discloses the interpretation of the rule base model includes executing the inference engine to act upon the rule base model and produce a number of constraints (“The behavior of an MO is represented by how it reacts to a specific operation and the constraints imposed on this reaction. The MO may react to either external stimuli or internal stimuli. An external stimuli is represented by a message that carries an operation”, column 41, lines 27 - 32).

As per claim 11, Elliott discloses a method wherein the number of constraints are communicated to the constraint satisfaction engine, the constraint satisfaction engine being configured to search for a set of objects that match the number of constraints as well as constraints of the constraint model (“The behavior of an MO is represented by how it reacts to a specific operation and the constraints imposed on this reaction. The MO may react to either external stimuli or internal stimuli. An external stimuli is represented by a message that carries an operation”, column 41, lines 27 - 32).

As per claim 12, Elliott discloses a wherein the set of objects are communicated to the optimization engine, the optimization engine communicating with the optimization model so as to produce an optimized object that is recorded, the recording of the optimized object being indicative of the handling of the identified situation, (“The Resource Management Model 2150

Art Unit: 3623

should optimize the allocation of resources and, if possible, honoring a selected policy”, column 26, lines 33 - 35).

6. Claims 36 - 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kiss et al (US 6,484,155).

As per claim 36, Kiss discloses a computer readable media having program instructions for executing an interaction flow model, comprising:

program instructions for receiving an event (column 9, line 15, “the meta agent receives all responses and stores them”);

program instructions for categorizing the received event (column 2, lines 54 - 55, “organizes the problem statements as sets of tasks”);

program instructions for identifying a situation that matches the categorized received event (column 2, lines 18 - 19, “any query much match an existing entry in the knowledge dictionary”);

program instructions for executing one or more tasks for the situation, the execution of the one or more tasks including one of an interpretation of a model and execution of a method

of an object (column 3, lines 33 - 34, “a knowledge-based system to formulate and execute a problem-solving process”).

As per claim 37, Kiss discloses a method for executing an interaction flow model as recited in claim 36, wherein receiving the event is by way of one of the distributed information service and the user and application interface (column 2, lines 43 - 45, “a knowledge management system that supports inquiries of distributed knowledge resources”).

As per claim 38, Kiss discloses a method for executing an interaction flow model as recited in claim 36, wherein the categorizing is configured to generate a set of categories for previously handled events (column 8, lines 2 - 4, “meta agent chooses knowledge agents that have a history of rapid response or that can tailor their problem solving to real time”).

As per claim 39, Kiss discloses a method for executing an interaction flow model as recited in claim 36, wherein the executing one or more tasks for the situation includes:

program instructions for invoking one of an optimization engine, an inference engine, and a constraint satisfaction engine to interpret the model, the model including one of a rule base model, an optimization model, and a constraint model (column 7, lines 11, “the mapping may be used by the meta agent to optimize problem solutions”);

wherein the interpretation of the model can include one of an infer action, a search with constraints action, an interact action, an optimize action, and a decide action (column 2,

Art Unit: 3623

lines 44 - 45, "a knowledge management system that supports inquiries of distributed knowledge resources").

***Response to Amendments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 6 – 12 and 36 - 39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.



Art Unit: 3623

### Conclusion


8. No claims are allowed.
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Romain Jeanty whose telephone number is (703) 308-9585. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RJ

December 13, 2004

  
ROMAIN JEANTY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
*Art Unit 3623*